

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A method for processing a video program having a first aspect ratio  
2 different from a second aspect ratio of a display, the method comprising the steps of:  
3                   specifying video conversion information for the video program at a first  
4 location, wherein the video conversion information can be used to modify the video program  
5 from the first aspect ratio to the second aspect ratio;  
6                   transmitting the video program having the first aspect ratio and the video  
7 conversion information to a second location geographically away from the first location; and  
8                   processing the video program with the video conversion information at the  
9 second location to conform with the second aspect ratio, whereby the video program can be  
10 viewed in the second aspect ratio.

1                   2.       The method for processing the video program having the first aspect  
2 ratio different from the second aspect ratio of the display as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
3 video conversion information dynamically changes throughout playback of the video  
4 program.

1                   3.       The method for processing the video program having the first aspect  
2 ratio different from the second aspect ratio of the display as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
3 specifying step comprises specifying video conversion information for a plurality of target  
4 aspect ratios.

1                   4.       The method for processing the video program having the first aspect  
2 ratio different from the second aspect ratio of the display as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
3 video conversion information specifies a portion of the video program for shrinking when  
4 conforming to the display.

1                   5.       The method for processing the video program having the first aspect  
2 ratio different from the second aspect ratio of the display as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
3 video conversion information specifies a portion of the video program to display as the  
4 second aspect ratio.

1                   6.       The method for processing the video program having the first aspect  
2 ratio different from the second aspect ratio of the display as recited in claim 1, wherein the

3 processing step comprises non-linearly scaling a portion of the video program to produce the  
4 second aspect ratio.

1 7. The method for processing the video program having the first aspect  
2 ratio different from the second aspect ratio of the display as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
3 processing step comprises rotating or mirroring a portion of the video program to produce the  
4 second aspect ratio.

1 8. The method for processing the video program having the first aspect  
2 ratio different from the second aspect ratio of the display as recited in claim 1, wherein the  
3 processing step comprises processing a plurality of discreet portions of the video program to  
4 produce the second aspect ratio.

1 9. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions  
2 for performing the computer-implementable method for processing a video program of claim  
3 1.

1 10. A video distribution system that distributes a video program in a first  
2 aspect ratio and includes information to convert the first aspect ratio to a second aspect ratio,  
3 the video distribution system comprising:  
4 a distribution point; and  
5 a video converter remote the distribution point, wherein:  
6 the video converter receives the information and the video  
7 program from the distribution point; and  
8 the video converter uses the information to guide conversion  
9 between the first aspect ratio and the second aspect ratio.

1 11. The video distribution system that distributes the video program in the  
2 first aspect ratio and includes information to convert the first aspect ratio to the second aspect  
3 ratio as recited in claim 10, further comprising a video display coupled to the video converter,  
4 wherein the video display uses the second aspect ratio.

1 12. The video distribution system that distributes the video program in the  
2 first aspect ratio and includes information to convert the first aspect ratio to the second aspect  
3 ratio as recited in claim 10, wherein the information guides conversion between the first  
4 aspect ratio and a third aspect ratio.

1                   13.     The video distribution system that distributes the video program in the  
2 first aspect ratio and includes information to convert the first aspect ratio to the second aspect  
3 ratio as recited in claim 10, wherein the information guides conversions that change at least  
4 once during the video program.

1                   14.     The video distribution system that distributes the video program in the  
2 first aspect ratio and includes information to convert the first aspect ratio to the second aspect  
3 ratio as recited in claim 10, wherein:

4                   the information identifies a first cutout and a second cutout of a frame of the  
5 video program; and

6                   the information indicates how the first and second cutouts are used in the  
7 second aspect ratio.

1                   15.     A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, the computer data  
2 signal comprising:

3                   first information that represents a video program in a first aspect ratio; and  
4                   second information that indicates how the first aspect ratio is converted to a  
5 second aspect ratio, wherein:

6                   the computer data signal passes between a distribution point  
7 and a video converter; and

8                   the distribution point is remotely located from the video  
9 converter.

1                   16.     The computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave as recited in  
2 claim 15, wherein the carrier wave is passed in at least one of a following manners: wired,  
3 wirelessly, optically, terrestrially, and via satellite.

1                   17.     The computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave as recited in  
2 claim 15, wherein the second information indicates a first manipulation at a first temporal  
3 point in the video and a second manipulation at a second temporal point in the video.

1                   18.     The computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave as recited in  
2 claim 15, further comprising third information that indicates how the first aspect ratio is  
3 converted to a third aspect ratio.

1                    19.     The computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave as recited in  
2     claim 15, wherein a plurality of discrete portions of the video program are used to produce  
3     the second aspect ratio.